

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 1-6, with the following substitute paragraph:

This invention relates to a system for providing a user with information on local circumstances. The system may make use of a wireless data transfer medium such as radio frequency (RF) signaling – preferably low-power RF – or other means such as infra-red signaling to transfer data between a personal device that could be carried by a user and a static device that transmits data relating to the local circumstances.

**Background of the Invention**

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 1-9, with the following substitute paragraph:

**Summary of the Invention**

According to the present invention there is provided a local data provision system comprising: a plurality of transmitters each located at a respective entity having a limited range of physical utility, and each transmitter being arranged repeatedly or on demand to transmit wirelessly a signal carrying data indicating the presence of the respective entity over a range substantially coterminous with the range of utility of that entity; and a personal information unit comprising a user interface for signaling information to a user and a receiver arranged to receive the availability data and the cause the user interface to signal information to the user in dependence on the received availability data.

Please replace the paragraphs on page 3, lines 11-16, with the following paragraphs:  
The personal information unit is suitably a portable unit.

**Brief Description of the Drawings**

The present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a schematic diagram of a local information provision system; and

Figure 2 illustrates the use of the system of Figure 1 in an urban setting.

**Detailed Description**